

Remarks:

The applicant has cancelled claims 7-17 in favor of newly submitted claims 18-22. Claim 18, which is independent in form, has language that distinguishes the present invention over the cited art. In particular, the preamble states:

A method of simulating a missile by means of a missile simulator during testing of an aircraft system *which includes a weapon system for controlling missiles with which the aircraft may be equipped*, the method comprising:

This language, particularly that which is shown in italics, is supported in the specification at page 1, beginning at line 15; and points out that the invention relates to simulation of a missile to test the missile control electronics of a weapon system. The Pace reference relates to simulation of ECM and other countermeasures to determine a theoretical “miss distance” which is the measure of distance by which a missile misses its target.

The first enumerated limitation of claim 18 is similar to language previously used during prosecution of this application:

- i) generating a target seeker command position for a target seeker in the missile, whereby the target seeker is commanded to adopt a predetermined position;

This limitation simply requires that a desired command position is input to generate a target seeker command.

The second limitation provides language that is not found in previous claims of the present application, but which is fully supported at page 2, lines 30-32:

ii) simulating the behavior of the missile in a computer model  
to generate an actual value signal adapted to the weapon  
systems

This limitation describes the use of a simulated missile which thus avoids having to use actual missiles during testing. This simulated missile provides “actual” data for use in the feedback loop that controls the missile. The control signal is the error or “trouble” signal, representing a difference between the actual value signal and the target seeker command position.

With these and the remaining limitations of claim 18, the invention relates to a method for testing whereby an actual missile is not needed during testing. The simulation is carried out during testing of the aircraft system, unlike Pace which is directed to measuring the performance of the aircraft system. Pace essentially measures sensitivity to ECM (electronic counter measures), and does not teach simulation of a missile to test missile control.


Newly added claim 19 corresponds to original claim 2, and claim 21 corresponds to original claim 9.

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge insufficient fees and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-5127, 19391.0011.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 24, 2008

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